

Let's think of our history in relative terms for a moment. If it has been only a few minutes since the first Mongolian crossed the Bering Land Bridge in Alaska, then it has been only a few seconds between the time when Columbus reached the New World and the astronauts set foot on the Moon. One moment, it seems, the continent was empty . . . and the next, it was filled with people.

There has never been anything to match the growth of this country, and that is the story which the animated film, "People, People, People" tells — at the same time suggesting the unique cultural gifts that each set of immigrants has brought with it.

You can get some feeling of this amazing story in cold statistics: since 1776, our population has multiplied almost a hundred times. At the peak of immigration in the early part of this century, as many as a million people a year were coming to the United States from every continent in the world. Sometimes upheavals abroad have caused mass migrations to the United States. Sometimes it has just been a case of a steady build-up over the years: in 1821, for instance, one solitary Polish national came here; in 1921, 95,000.

Growth of this mammoth proportion has presented us with mammoth problems—no one would deny it. But that should not obscure the fact that our ability to assimilate so great a number and such a variety of newcomers has been for two hundred years a characteristic unique to the United States.

For those who have landed on our shores, as for the first astronaut who landed on the Moon, the small step for man has proved, again and again, a giant leap for mankind.

Excerpts from the animated film
"People, People, People."



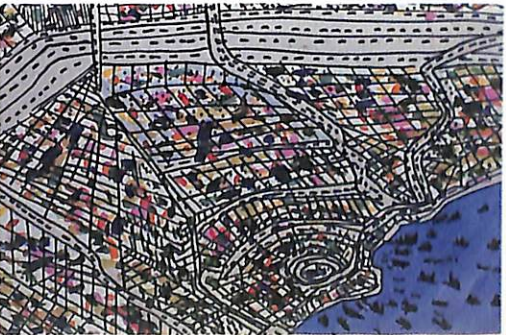
In an unpopulated continent . . .



Centuries pass; explorers return . . .



1776: Our last king is overthrown . . .



The megalopolis is born . . .



the first Mongolian arrives . . .



they build seaports . . .



a new nation lures new people . . .



a country bursts with industry . . .



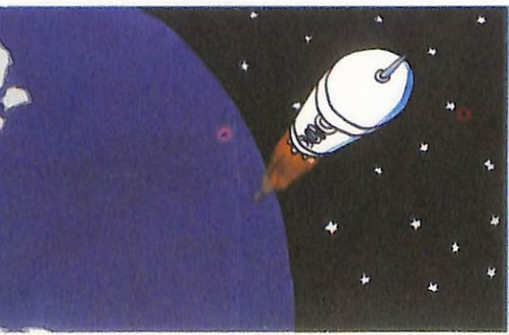
villages spread . . .



trade with the Indians . . .



who dash across the continent . . .



rockets head for outer space . . .



and the Vikings take a look.



and venture inland.



followed by fresh boatloads.



and Man arrives on the Moon.